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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1910.

WALDORF ASTOR; EXPATRIATE.

"One of the most remarkable victories and greatest surprises of the day," said the London correspondent of the New York Times on Thursday, "was at Plymouth. There Waldorf Astor, elder son of William Waldorf Astor, and A. Shirley Benn, John Burns's old opponent in Battersea, captured two seats of the Unionists. . . . The work that Mr. Astor had done in the constituency was shown in his success in replacing C. E. Mallet, Financial Secretary to the War Office, who is the first minister to be defeated. In addition, young Astor headed the poll."

This was, indeed, a very remarkable victory; but we have no doubt that the young man will "make good," at least we do not see why he should be denounced simply because he has a little more money than some of the rest of us. He lives in England, and is doubtless as much interested in the welfare of that country as the foreigners who have come to the United States and settled in this land are interested in the prosperity of this country. If he cared, for any reason satisfactory to himself, to give up his American citizenship, surely the people of the United States can have no substantial ground of complaint. Many of our most eminent men are of foreign birth, and, so far as we know, there has been no general denunciation of them in their own countries because, for reasons of their own, they preferred to live here. There is Samuel Gompers, for example, who was born in England, and who has been president of the American Federation of Labor since 1882. There are Oscar S. Straus, United States Ambassador to Turkey, who was born in Germany, and Richard C. Kerens, United States Ambassador to Austria, who was born in Ireland, and other men who have attained distinction and rendered good service to the United States in spite of their foreign birth. In war and peace men of foreign nationality have been of great value to the United States, and as we have had so much from them is it an unpardonable sin that now and then a native born American should give up his residence here to live in some other land more to his liking? We may in our patriotic devotion say that he has not displayed wise judgment or good taste, but in view of what the foreigners have done for us, we should not be so unselfish as to deny to other lands an occasional contribution from our own ranks.

We do not know what sort of member of Parliament Mr. Astor will make, he does not know himself; but he is said by those who know him intimately to be a very fine young fellow of remarkably good common sense, unaffected by his immense wealth, and willing to do his part in whatever enterprise is undertaken for the general good. He did not get his money by any doubtful or dishonest means; but by inheritance, and the people before him made it in a perfectly square way; first by trapping in the Hudson Bay country, and then by investing in New York real estate when nobody else wanted it or thought very much of it. The Astors are one of the American families that got rich by waiting. They have never made corners in wheat or cotton or meat; by wrecking railroads, by "kiting" stocks, by squeezing out the little fellows, by organizing combinations in restraint of trade, by standing in with "the ticker crowd;" but by investing in real estate and holding on in their way, just as other people all over the country have held on for the increased values which they expected and which in the case of the Astors have been realized. If a man in Richmond had bought the land lying along west Franklin Street thirty or forty years ago at the prices then asked for it and held it for sale at the prices it fetches to-day, he would have repeated in a way the experience of the older Astors, who amassed enormous fortunes by doing this very thing in New York City. There was nothing wrong in that, as the people who have converted farming lands into city lots all over the country would admit if they were taken to task for their fortunes. The mistake that is often made is in not differentiating between the rich, who have come by their wealth in a lawful way, and the rich who have made their money by hook or by crook.

It is said by the New York World that Astor won in the election in the Plymouth district by the lavish use of money. We do not know that he did anything of the sort; but if he did he was simply following the American habit. Only a few years ago 50,000 votes were changed in New York by the expenditure of $260,000 raised by Mr. Harriman for the purpose, and in the recent election in New York State over $300,000 was expended in the successful campaign conducted by Governor-elect Dix. The legitimate expenses of conducting political campaigns and elections in England doubtless amount to a considerable sum, and it is not at all unlikely that Mr. Astor contributed his full share to the campaign fund; but in doing this he was simply following the usage in his native land. There is less reason to suspect him of using money to corrupt the voters—England being a country where the law is enforced—than there is to charge the most successful candidates and parties of the United States with using money to carry elections. Of course, it must not be understood that our example in such matters is worthy of imitation, only that it is not safe for people who live in glass houses to throw stones.

There has been much bitter criticism of the Astors, father and son, for expatriating themselves; but so long as we continue to receive in this country annually something like a million expatriates from other lands we cannot seriously blame some of our own folks for going when we applaud so many other people for coming. Probably Mr. Astor would rather live in England than in New York, and nobody can blame him very much for it. Beside, Waldorf Astor is said to be very much of a man, and, as he is not running for any office in the United States, there is no reason why we should vilify him for aspiring to political station in England.

LYNCHBURG GOES "WET."

The election in Lynchburg yesterday resulted in the defeat of the prohibitionists by a majority of 85. The campaign was hotly contested and the excitement at times was intense; but, so far as we are informed, the vote represented the real sentiment of the community. It affords additional proof of our contention that regulation that regulates is better than prohibition than does not prohibit.

Now that Lynchburg has decided that intoxicants can be sold there, the authorities should take care that the rules under which it can be sold shall be so plain and so exacting that no harm will come to the community from the free sale of the stuff. That would be playing directly into the hands of the blind tigers which have been in many communities, if not in Lynchburg, open-eyed when it has come to voting for the suppression of the legal traffic in whiskey.

THAT EXTRA SESSION.

The fault appears to be not in the law, but in the enforcement of the law; at least, such is the conclusion one would reach after reading Governor Mann's letter to Mr. Tucker in reply to his request for an extraordinary session of the Legislature for the purpose of amending the primary election law. The law as it stands provides for the punishment of those who shall engage in any irregular or corrupt practices at party primaries in the same manner and to the same extent as such irregular practices would be punished at general and local elections. The Supreme Court of the State, in the case of Jackson Wise, practically decided that such is the law, and would doubtless confirm that decision if the recent irregularities in the Norfolk District should be brought before it in such way that a direct decision could be made. It ought to be practicable for Mr. Tucker and those in that district who appear to be very much aroused on the subject to have the case presented so that the Court could get a fair chance at it. This would cost far less than an extra session of the Legislature, and, if it should fail, the Legislature at its regular session in January, 1912, could deal with the subject as necessity might require.

GRUNDY TO GRICE.

Counting himself, fifty-seven varieties of Colonel Barton H. Grundy's friends attended the most excellent dinner given by him at the Commonwealth Club Thursday night in honor of Mr. E. W. Grice, the new General Manager of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, who was wassailed as often as the proprieties permitted. It was a private dinner and nothing was said for publication, but it will not be regarded as a breach of propriety to say that the canvasbacks from Currituck, killed by the trusty fowling-piece of the toastmaster, and the boneless chicken, which grow to such perfection only at the Commonwealth, and the asparagus from the Rapidan, not to speak of the vintages with the cobwebs still on the glass, were only the rich setting of a notable gathering of well-meaning men interested by sympathy or service in the conservation of one of the most important factors in the industrial life of the country.

Grice was the "favorite son" of the evening and if good wishes and fine compliments could prevail against the spirit of confiscation, there could be no question as to his successful administration of the office entrusted to him. It is a far cry from the place of train dispatcher at Clifton Forge to the general management of so extensive a system as that over which he has been set as overseer, and there was nothing that showed his fitness for this service so well as the half minute tribute paid to him by a man named Walker who speaking in behalf of the twenty thousand employees of the railroad, told him and the company present that he possessed their confidence and would have their help. That was the testimony of the men who do the work, but it was not more impressive in its way than the testimony of the man highest up, the President of the System, George W. Stevens, who found Grice and put him where he is.

This part of the entertainment was personal; but there was an even deeper and more important note sounded when one after another, banker and lawyer and judge and manufacturer and merchant and plain citizen, spoke out his mind plainly for that equity of treatment for the railroads which is necessary for the public welfare, as it is essential to the success of the transportation interests of the country. If the things which were said in the upper room at the Grundy dinner should be spoken with the same freedom to the people there would come about that "more perfect union" between those who make the freights and those who haul them that is vital to the happiness and prosperity of both. It is true that Brandeis was not there with his opodeldoc to rub on the bruised places; but that oldest of our "elder statesmen," the venerable John P. Branch, was, and what he said was so simple that even so wayfaring a man as Brandeis could have understood it, and was so true that a politician trying to make votes by denouncing "the interests" could not have gainsaid. It was only a little rift in the clouds, but it showed that the sun is still shining a bit on the other side and that men are beginning to think about what could happen if it should be made impossible by further exactions for the transportation lines to perform their best service for the public.

The Grundy dinner was, therefore, simply an indication of a returning sense of sanity, a protest, so to say, against the further violation of the Sherman law which forbids any combination in restraint of trade, which means, of course, being fairly interpreted, any combination of legislative bodies and commissions and courts of one sort and another and politicians to do the thing or things forbidden to those who are engaged in lawful business enterprises and who are conducting them in a lawful way.

A WILD STORY ABOUT MRS. EDDY.

Dr. R. C. Hannon, of the Divine Science Association, has written a letter to the Hartford Post in which he says that "the real Mrs. Eddy died a long time ago and her body was sealed in the 'Mother Room' of the Mother Church in Boston"; that "the substitute who has acted the part of Mrs. Eddy for the past two years has to all appearances passed on," and that "the directors of the Mother Church, under the secret instruction of Mrs. Augusta Stetson, of New York City, have taken this opportunity to place the notice of the death of the real Mrs. Eddy before the public by using the body of this substitute." Dr. Hannon adds: "For over twenty years Mrs. Stetson has been planning for the death of Mrs. Eddy, and with the aid of her agent, Calvin Frye, Mrs. Stetson has at last accomplished her aim."

The story lacks confirmation, to say the least, and nobody will believe it. Little good would Mrs. Eddy's death do Mrs. Stetson; for Mrs. Stetson has been "fired" from the fold for "malicious animal magnetism," and will make nothing by it. Besides, who is Dr. Hannon, anyhow? Never heard of him before and the Divine Science Association is something new under the sun. There can no longer be any dispute about whether or not Mrs. Eddy is dead, as according to Dr. Hannon both she and her alleged substitute have both passed on, and as for Mrs. Stetson, she will be with us for many years, it is hoped.

GENERAL WALLACE F. RANDOLPH.

Wallace F. Randolph died by his own hand at his home in Washington yesterday. He was in his seventieth year. He served in the Union Army during the War Against the South and was brevetted "for gallantry in the defense of Winchester, Va.," in 1863, and at the close of the struggle in 1865 "for good conduct and meritorious service during the war." He entered the army when he was twenty years of age, and after forty-three years' service, in which he rose from a private in the 17th Pennsylvania Infantry to the rank of Major-General in the Regular Army he retired from the service in 1904. He was Chief of Artillery from 1901 to the time of his retirement and was held in high regard for his ability in this branch of the art of war and for his thoroughness as a disciplinarian. Besides being a first-rate soldier, he was a fine fellow and popular among civilians as he was in the service. Despondent because of continued ill health, he took his own life, but not until after he had offered it to his country on many fields of battle. The pity of his taking off is softened by the good record he left behind him of duty well done in two wars and valuable service in times of peace.

TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT.

The land is full of Jeremiahs. We might think at every turn that something awful is going to happen, and if the world is not doomed to destruction within the next twenty-four hours, the indications all seem to point that way.

Tuesday night Supervisor Maxwell, of the public schools of New York City, spoke to the Social Service Club of Maryland in Baltimore. He thinks that the waste incurred by not using the school buildings of the city more than six hours of the day is the greatest extravagance of all municipal administration. He hopes to see the day when all the furniture now used in school rooms will be burned up, and he believes that the greatest failing of the present system is the lack of adequate playgrounds for the children; and he believes, further, that the severest indictment that can be brought against the American city is the lack of physical and ordinary training of children. Last summer the average daily attendance on the playgrounds provided on the roofs of the larger school buildings in New York, was twenty-two thousand. We are not surprised that the children should like this sort of thing, but we doubt that, with all the machinery of the present day school management, the children are any better taken care of than they were in other days before government by the State took the place of government by the family.

Only a week or so ago, Dr. Walter Page, of New York, described to the Co-operative Teachers' Association of Virginia "The School House of To-Morrow," and there has been a growing tendency on the part of modernists to make the teacher supply the place of the parent and the school to take the place of the family. If the Page idea should be carried out, the unfed children would be fed by the State, and the children with bad teeth would be taken care of by dentists at the expense of the State, and the children with bad eyes would be looked after at the expense of the State. All this is very Utopian, but it is not practical, and it is neither wise nor right unless the State is to become the guardian of all the children.

What is needed most of all in the country just now is the confinement of government to the objects of government.

NEVER SHAKE HANDS.

Prof. Frank E. Thompson, who occupies the Chair of Education in the University of Colorado, has joined issue with Herr Knopf as to the relative danger of kissing and shaking hands in the spread of disease. Sometime ago Knopf warned the people of this country that there was death in kissing, and now comes Prof. Thompson with this declaration: "There is nothing unhygienic in kissing compared with handshaking. Nearly every hand encloses within the recesses of the nails or tissues millions of germs which are communicated by the act of shaking hands."

We do not know anything about Knopf, but we extend to Prof. Thompson the assurances of our distinguished consideration. He has struck a popular chord. There is too much handshaking anyhow in this country.

THE BACKSLIDING OF BIRMINGHAM.

Birmingham promised to be the model prohibition city after Alabama passed a State-wide prohibition law. Its reputation for obedience to the mandates of the law was unexcelled for a time. Intense efforts were made at first to enforce the law. The semblance of prohibition deceived many for some time. There was a wide-awake law and order league; the city authorities were in sympathy with the strict administration of the law. Raids were made. Offenders were punished.

Yet the reaction, the inevitable reaction that follows in the wake of prohibition laws, came. Hundreds of places blossomed under the name of "literary" clubs, where membership was a mere matter of introduction and the possession of a card, for which the holder paid nothing. In the hotels certain bellboys, known by numbers, were always ready, day or night, to serve any sort of liquor to the inmates of the hotel rooms. No one had to inquire to find a bar.

Prohibition has proved itself a farce in Birmingham. Mere boys who could not have bought liquor at the old-time bars reveled in their cups under the liberal reign of State-wide prohibition. Recently a citizens' committee, called into existence by rumors of flagrant violations of the law, employed detectives to investigate the situation. These detectives lately reported that "blind tigers have given way to full-fledged open saloons." They charge that "the men who sell liquor know when to expect the city sleuths." Gambling houses, they report, run openly.

Statistics may be brought out and paraded about the Alabama city, but they cannot rebut the plain truth. It is a condition, not a theory, that must be faced.

BACHELORS IN ALABAMA.

The Montgomery Advertiser says it is unnecessary to tax the bachelors in that town, as there are hardly enough of them to go around. "Folks marry around here," says the Advertiser. We are sorry for the girls; the men appear to be getting worse and worse. The divorce rate in Alabama in 1890 was 27 per hundred thousand of population; in 1900, it was 69 per one hundred thousand. From 1887 to 1906 there there 22,807 divorces in Alabama. Considering the character of the bachelors, however, it must be said that this is not as bad a record as it might be, as it is in Texas, for example, where the rate is 131 per one hundred thousand.

A POOR PROPHECY.

Norris Brown, who a few people recollect is Senator from Nebraska, is very anxious to have three-fourths of the States ratify the constitutional amendment permitting the laying of a Federal income tax. So far but eight States have ratified this proposition, and five have refused to ratify it. Senator Brown is optimistic, nevertheless, and is of opinion that four of the five States that have rejected the amendment will reverse themselves when the next sessions of their legislatures take place. The five States in question are: New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, Louisiana, and Massachusetts.

New York is unlikely to change its action, for the tax will strike New York a harder blow, by far, than any other State. Massachusetts will hardly reverse its action, though Governor-Elect Foss is in favor of the proposed amendment. Virginia, we feel sure, will not record itself in favor of the change. Louisiana will also remain as it is on this question. Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky and Maryland have ratified the amendment, but the example of these States will have little, if any, influence on other Southern States. It is said that the amendment has no chance at all in Rhode Island.

GLORY TO THE PEANUT.

It was just a little while ago that we took occasion to wreathe the peanut with the laurel of praise. The virtue, the power, the multifold uses of the peanut, we set forth at length, proclaiming to all the world that the peanut has the assurances of our most distinguished esteem.

It is pleasing, therefore, to learn that the good people of Emporia are thinking of observing "Peanut Day." This we think an excellent idea. The mainstay of Greensville County is its peanuts. It is said on the authority of the Index-Appeal, of Petersburg, that the finest variety of Spanish peanut in the world grows in Greensville county, a statement which we are ready to believe without question. Its value is known to the farmers, and if the peanut crop fail, woe is Greensville!

"Peanut Day" in Emporia ought to be a great occasion. It would be a unique celebration, free from the sameness and monotony of celebrations in other towns. The peanut is a food acceptable to all persons of all ages. It strengthens and sustains the weary, it charms the child, it delights the heart of the aged, it stays the fainting spirit, it is prized alike by the man with the hoe and the man with the million. The glorification of the peanut is an object worthy of the best efforts of the people of Emporia and Greenesville.

JAMES I. VANCE.

In the return of Dr. James I. Vance to Nashville, where seventeen years ago he was pastor of the First Presbyterian church, the position which he re-assumes, the South has gained a notable acquisition. For some years Dr. Vance has been pastor of a large church at Newark, New Jersey, where he has achieved remarkable success, and the love and admiration of his flock. His books on religious subjects are known all over the country. He is a preacher of surpassing power, still a young man, full of vigor and strength. It was only last Sunday that Dr. Vance was installed in his Nashville charge and when the congregation there was called upon to say whether or not it would be loyal to the new leader, the unanimous response brought tears to the eyes of many of those present. Southern preachers who go North rarely come back, but the exception to this rule in the case of Dr. Vance is very pleasant to think on.

THE NEEDS OF BUSINESS.

A review of business from the point of view of the manufacturers has recently been made by G. H. Lewis and published in the current number of American Industries. It is the result of a canvass of the 3,000 members of the National Association of Manufacturers. The purpose of this inquiry was to discover actual present industrial conditions and prospects for 1911.

The result of the investigation shows that business as a whole is somewhat quiet, "with a few industries enjoying a fair degree of prosperity." That was about the case as it appeared from the answers.

"What would you suggest for the improvement of business conditions?" was the question put by Mr. Lewis. The answers are thus summarized:

Less legislative interference with business.

Less political activity.

A speedy and equitable settlement of the railway rate question.

More conservatism in business.

The removal of the tariff from politics.

The granting of equal opportunities to all workmen by making the closed shop illegal.

Reform of the currency and banking systems.

Prompt decisions in the important industrial questions now before the Supreme Court of the United States.

More attention to foreign trade and rehabilitation of the merchant marine.

The consul-general of Siam reports that "teddy bears would find a ready sale" in that country. That's about the only place where they would sell now.

Bailey, of the Houston Post, is surprised to know that anybody in Virginia had as much money as $17,359.35 that he could afford to spend in a political campaign, and says that "it ought to console him to know that even if he was defeated he started a tide of prosperity in his district such as it had never known before." Bailey ought to know how it is, as the Post has not yet finished paying the money he spent last summer in buying flowers for Cone Johnson, with the result only that the onion crop of Texas has increased amazingly.

Yet we say that they should not vote! A South Carolina girl in Marlboro County has made one hundred bushels of corn to the acre this year, and Miss Lois McAffee, of Chester County, in the same State, is a good second, with 73 1-5 bushels to the acre on ground she prepared and worked with her own hands. In a land where the young girls can do work of this sort, is it any wonder that the men should not care to work? What's the use? What are the girls given to us for if they are not to work?

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Sheep.

Of twenty or more species of wild sheep, the Rocky Mountain sheep, or bighorn (Ovis Montana), is the only one native to North America. This species lives in the higher mountain ranges of the West, and has been much hunted for its excellent mutton in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and other States. It has not been domesticated. Sheep were introduced from England into Virginia in 1609, and the breeds now raised are all of European origin. Probably three-fourths of the American sheep are merinos, the proportion having been still larger until mutton-growing began to be important a few years ago. This is the variety supplying fine wool; the recognized varieties for medium wool are the Southdown, Dorset, Horn, Suffolk, Shropshire, Hampshire Down, Oxford Down and Cheviot; and, for coarse wool, the Leicester, Lincoln, Cotswold and Black-faced Highland. A recent estimate showed the world's annual production of wool to be 2,695,733 pounds. Of this, 756,590,000 pounds came from Australia, 328,731,000 from Argentina, 328,111,000 from the United States, 320,000,000 from Russia, and 133,705,000 from the United Kingdom.

AT ONE TIME MEMBER OF BRITISH EMBASSY

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

HUGO CHARTERIS, whose engagement to Lady Violet Manners, second daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, has just been announced, spent several years in the United States, as one of the secretaries of the British embassy at Washington, and during his stay there was visited by his mother, Lady Elcho, and by his sister, Miss Cynthia Charteris, who has since married Premier Asquith's second son, Herbert. Hugo Charteris is the eldest son of Lord Elcho, who in turn is the eldest son and heir of that wonderful old Scot grand seigneur, the Earl of Wemyss and March, now in his ninety-third year, and who when eighty-two tempted matrimony for a second time, by leading to the altar Miss Grace Blackburn, niece of the late Lord Blackburn.

Hugo Charteris and his grandfather, Lord Wemyss (whose name should be pronounced "Weemz"), are descended from that Sir David Wemyss, who in the thirteenth century was one of the Scotch magnates chosen to convey Queen Margaret, the Maid of Norway, from Scandinavia to Scotland, on her accession in her mother's right to the Scottish throne; and at Wemyss Castle there still exists a curious Norwegian bowl, presented by the King of Norway to this Sir David Wemyss. The territory or shire of Wemyss is situated on the north shore of the Firth of Forth, and is said to derive its name from the caves in its rocky coast, the walls of which are sculptured with the work of early Christian missionaries, to whom they furnished shelter.

The first member of the Wemyss family to bear the title of earl was Sir John Wemyss, who was created Earl of Wemyss and Baron Elcho, by Charles I., in spite of which he sided with the Parliamentarians against his royal master. The fourth earl was Queen Anne's Lord High Admiral of Scotland, and one of the commissioners for concluding the treaty of union between England and Scotland.

The fifth earl married the daughter and heiress of Colonel Francis Charteris, of Amisfield, and from that time forth the Wemysses have always borne the name of Charteris, usually in conjunction with their former patronymic. It seems a pity that so illustrious and so historic a house should have seen fit to assume the name of Charteris, and thus to perpetuate the connection of their family with so infamous a creature as the Colonel Francis Charteris in question, whose misdeeds are familiar to all students of the works of Pope and of Hogarth. Charteris began life in the army, but was drummed out of his regiment for cheating at cards. He entered a Dutch regiment, from which he was expelled for stealing. On his return to Scotland, his father purchased for him a commission in the Third Regiment of Foot Guards, but the officers refused to enroll him. He eventually got into some other regiment, and obtained by purchase promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was forced once more out of the army, after having been found guilty of fraud, which resulted among other punishments in his being forced to receive on his knees at the bar of the House of Commons, a scorching reprimand from the Speaker. Thenceforth he devoted himself to gambling, and above all to usury, was on several occasions imprisoned in Newgate, and was so execrated on account of his wickedness, that a popular riot took place at his funeral, the mob almost tearing the body out of the coffin, and casting dead dogs and cats and other offal into the grave along with it.

The sixth Earl of Wemyss having been involved in the Jacobite rising of 1745, his honors were attainted by Parliament; but on his death without issue in 1785, they were revived in favor of his brother.

The present earl is the tenth, and his son, Lord Elcho, is married to one of the three daughters of the Hon. Percy Wyndham, of Clouds, in Wiltshire, Lady Elcho being familiar to many people in this country through one of John S. Sargent's masterpieces, the painting in question representing her and her two sisters, Lady Tennant and Mrs. Charles Adeane. The picture was one of the features of the Royal Academy exhibition of some fourteen years ago, where it was designated by King Edward, then Prince of Wales, as "the Three Graces," a title well merited, and which has stuck to Lady Elcho and to her fascinating and gifted sisters, ever since.

Lord Wemyss entered Parliament some seventy years ago as representative of East Gloucestershire, in the House of Commons, and is, so far as I am aware, the oldest legislator in point of service at Westminster. In the House of Commons he was famous as a clever and most aggressive debater, whose arguments were always pointed, and usually popular, and it is difficult to realize that this peer, who during the past summer has been attracting attention in the House of Lords by his championship and defense of its prerogatives, was in the House of Commons a conspicuous supporter of the great Sir Robert Peel, and a lord of the treasury in the Aberdeen administration, which was in office at the time of the Crimean War. As Lord Elcho, the old earl may be said to be the father of the rifle competition movement, and likewise of the volunteer force, which in spite of the excellent account which it was able to give of itself during the Boer War, has been legislated out of existence by the present administration. In fact, the name of Lord Elcho, by which he was then known, will always be identified with the history of the volunteer army of Great Britain.

When transferred by the death of his father to the House of Lords, he brought to the gilded chamber an atmosphere of breeziness to which it was unaccustomed, and introduced there an element of pugnacity and general aggressiveness, and may be said to have caped the climax when on a notable occasion, in perorating on the volunteer question, he, in one of his finest periods brought down his right arm and hand in a denunciatory sweep, full on the hat of the late King Edward, when Prince of Wales, who, as usual with the members of both houses of Parliament, was sitting with his high silk hat on his head, on the cross benches just in front of him. The hat, badly damaged and flattened, was knocked down upon the heir apparent's nose, to his intense astonishment.

Lord Wemyss has a number of country seats, including Elcho Castle, in Perthshire; Neidpath Castle, in County Peebles, and Amisfield and Gosford, in Haddingtonshire. Wemyss Castle, the ancestral home of the family, is, however, in the possession of Michael John Wemyss. The reason for the castle belonging to him is owing to the fact that the eldest son of the fifth earl sided with the Stuarts in the Jacobite rebellion, and was in consequence thereof attainted by Parliament, and that the estates, instead of being confiscated to the crown, were transferred to his younger brother James, member of Parliament for Sutherland, who had espoused the Hanoverian cause. It is from this younger brother James Wemyss that Michael Wemyss, the present owner of Wemyss Castle, is descended.

He holds it, however, subject to certain conditions. For his father, the late Randolph Gordon Erskine Wemyss, stipulated in his will that his eldest son should forfeit his life interest in Wemyss Castle, and in the extensive estates associated therewith, if he permitted his mother, Lady Lillian Wemyss, to ever cross the threshold of the castle. Lady Lillian, who is the only sister of the present Marquis of Winchester, obtained a divorce from her husband in 1898. The divorce case excited a considerable amount of feeling in society, and was followed not long afterwards by the late Randolph Wemyss's marriage, in a London registry office, to Lady Eva Cowley, only sister of the present Earl of Cowley, and niece of the widowed Duchess of Wellington. Of course society took sides, and intense bitterness resulted, and it is due to this fact that Randolph Wemyss in his will, not only barred his eldest son from allowing his mother to enter the castle, but also extended the same interdiction to every other member of the Paulet family, to which she belonged by birth, under pain of forfeiture.